

NSC BRIEFING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

16 MAY 1956

DE-STALINIZATION IN POLAND

I. At 10 May Paris party for Tito, Polish Ambassador (Gajewski) told Amb. Dillion that Poles were going faster and further with Stalin deflation than anyone else in East Europe

A. Said important & extensive changes due in Polish regime.

B. Said fact of geography dictated Polish friendship for USSR.

C. In aside on subject Polish fear of Germans, said "Don't believe for a minute we Poles consider East Germany to be anything but Germans".

25X1

II.

[REDACTED]

25X1
25X1

[REDACTED]

large group influential Party members pushing "evolutionary" movement to bring about "Polish" form of Communism--to possess such "liveral" features as freedom of Expression, "legality" in judicial, police practices.

[REDACTED]

25X1

B. [REDACTED] movement started after Stalin's death: became apparent in '54-'55 with Polish writers' clamor for less control.

25X1

C. [REDACTED] movement is not revdlutionary one, which could align Poland with West, but instead a drive for "independent" Polish development of Communism within Bloc.

25X1

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DATE

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State Dept. review completed

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16 MAY 1956

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1. At May Paris reception for Tito, Polish ambassador to France made some rather telling remarks about situation in Poland to Ambassador Dillion.

2. He said Poles were taking "De-Stalinization" campaign very seriously; going much faster and further with it than any other country in Eastern Europe.

A. Said he expected extensive and important changes in composition of Polish government.

B. Next, he said, must always bear in mind Poland's geographic position and realize that, because of this geography, Poland would have to stay on a friendly basis with her powerful neighbor to East

3. Ambassador also remarked that one thing Poles feared most was German militarism.

A. When asked why Poland had not objected to arming of East Germany, he replied: "Don't believe for a minute that we Poles consider East Germans to be anything but Germans."

B. He said "at least two or three generations" would be required to change German character.

25X1

[] a strong evolutionary movement which is centered on efforts of a large group of influential party members to bring about a "Polish" form of Communist development--featuring such "liberal" aspects as

freedom of expression and observance of legality in judicial and police practices.

A. This movement, which started after Stalin's death, became apparent during 1954-55 when a number of Polish writers began calling for less ideological control of arts.

B. This is not a revolutionary movement which would draw Poland into the Western camp, but one which strives for the "independent" Polish development of Communism within the Soviet Bloc.

- 2 -

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RSC BRIEFING

16 MAY 1956

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21
DOCUMENT NO. _____
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- 2 -

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